AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method of exchanging user messages among interactive disk players, comprising the steps of:

(a) receiving a user message from a first interactive disk player ~~and storing the received user message~~;

(b) receiving a message request from a second interactive disk player; ~~and~~

(c) comparing, a playback time included in the message request with a playback time included in the ~~stored~~ user message to produce a comparison result ~~and sending the stored user message to the second interactive disk player depending on the comparison result~~: and

determining whether or not to send the user message to the second interactive disk player depending on said comparison result.

2. (Currently amended) The method set forth in claim 1, wherein the user message includes

interactive disk identification information or program title information, and

user grouping information.

~~information for identifying an interactive disk or a title that is being played and information for grouping users.~~

3. (Currently amended) The method set forth in claim 1, wherein the message request includes

interactive disk identification information or program title information, and

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user grouping information.

~~information for identifying an interactive disk or a title that is being played and information for grouping users.~~

4. (Currently amended) The method set forth in claim 2 or claim 3, wherein the <u>user grouping</u> information ~~for grouping users~~ includes information on ~~the~~<u>an</u> age, ~~the~~<u>a</u> sex, ~~the~~<u>a</u> playback region, ~~and/or the~~<u>or a</u> language of a user.

5. (Currently amended) The method set forth in claim 1, wherein the step ~~(c) conducts~~ <u>of comparing comprises:</u>

comparing <u>the playback time included in the message request with the playback time included in the user message</u>~~the playback times and sending the user message depending on the comparison result~~if the ~~stored~~user message and the message request were created by interactive disk players belonging to ~~the same~~<u>a common</u> group.

6. (Currently amended) The method set forth in claim 1, wherein <u>the playback time included in the message request and the playback time included in the user message</u>~~the playback time is~~<u>each are</u> ~~the~~<u>a</u> time that has elapsed since ~~the~~<u>a</u> start of ~~the~~<u>a</u> playback of an individual interactive disk by ~~each~~<u>a respective one</u> of the interactive disk players.

7. (Currently amended) The method set forth in claim 1, wherein the step <u>of determining comprises:</u>

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(c) sends determining to send the stored user message if the playback time included in the message request approaches the playback time included in the stored user message within a predetermined bound.

8. (Currently amended) The method set forth in claim 1, wherein the step of comparing comprises:

(e) conducts comparing the playback time included in the message request with the playback time included in the user message the playback times and sending the user message depending on the comparison result if the stored user message is intended for requesting a response from other arbitrary users.

9. (Currently amended) The method set forth in claim 8, wherein the step further comprising:

(e) sending sends the stored user message to the second interactive disk player immediately without comparing the playback times included in the message request and the stored user message if the stored message is not intended for requesting a response from other arbitrary users.

10. (Currently amended) A method of exchanging user messages among interactive disk players, conducted by an interactive disk player, comprising the steps of:

sending a message request to an external server:

(a) receiving from the external server ~~and storing~~ a user message that was sent to the external server from a different interactive disk player ~~and received by and stored in an external server from the external server by sending a message request to the external server~~; and

(b) comparing a playback time included in the ~~stored~~ user message with ~~the~~ a time that has elapsed since ~~the~~ a start of ~~the playback of an interactive disk~~the step of playing to produce a comparison result~~and outputting the stored user message for displaying the message depending on the comparison result~~; and

determining whether or not to display the user message based on said comparison result.

11. (Currently amended) The method set forth in claim 10, wherein the message request includes ~~information~~

interactive disk identification information or program title information, and

user grouping information.

~~for identifying an interactive disk or a title that is being played and information for grouping users.~~

12. (Currently amended) The method set forth in claim 11, wherein the user grouping information ~~for grouping users~~ includes information on ~~the~~ an age, ~~the~~ a sex, ~~the~~ a playback region, ~~and/or~~ or ~~the~~ a language of a user.

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13. (Currently amended) The method set forth in claim 10, wherein the playback time is the a time that has elapsed since the a start of the a playback of an interactive disk by the different interactive disk player.

14. (Currently amended) The method set forth in claim 10, wherein the step (b) outputs of determining comprises:

determining to display the stored user message if the a time that has elapsed since the a start of the a playback by the interactive disk player approaches the playback time included in the stored user message within a predetermined bound.

15. (Currently amended) The method set forth in claim 10, wherein the step of comparing comprises:

(b) conducts comparing the playback time and the elapsed time and outputting the stored user message depending on the comparison result if the stored user message is intended for requesting a response from other arbitrary users.

16. (Currently amended) The method set forth in claim 15, wherein the step further comprising:

displaying (b) outputs the stored user message immediately without comparing the playback time included in the stored user message and the elapsed time if the stored user message is not intended for requesting a response from other arbitrary users.

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17. (Currently amended)   The method set forth in claim 10, further comprising the step

of:

(c) after the stored user message is outputteddisplayed, sending a message inputted by a

user along with the displayed user message to the external server.

18. (Currently amended) The method set forth in claim 17, wherein the inputted and sent

message is ofeach comprises a message type that does not include a request a response from

other arbitrary users.

19.   (New) A system for exchanging user messages among interactive disk players,

comprising:

a first interactive disk player;

a second interactive disk player; and

an external server connected to the two interactive disk players by a network, the external

server configured to receive a user message from the first interactive disk player and send the

user message to the second interactive disk player,

wherein the external server is configured, to receive a message request from the second

interactive disk player, to compare a playback time included in the message request with a

playback time included in the user message to produce a comparison result, and to determine

whether or not to send the user message to the second interactive disk player depending on the

comparison result.

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20. (New) The system set forth in claim 19, wherein the user message and the message request each include

interactive disk identification information or program title information, and

user grouping information.

21. (New) The system set forth in claim 20, wherein the user grouping information includes information on an age, a sex, a playback region, or a language of a user.

22. (New) The system set forth in claim 20, wherein the external server is configured to determine whether the first and second interactive disk players belong to a common group based on the user grouping information.

23. (New) The system set forth in claim 19, wherein the external server is configured to send the user message if the playback time included in the message request approaches the playback time included in the user message within a predetermined bound.

24. (New) The system set forth in claim 19, wherein the external server is configured to compare the playback time included in the message request with the playback time included in the user message if the user message is intended for requesting a response from other interactive disk players.

25. (New) An interactive disk player for exchanging user message with another

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interactive disk player, said interactive disk player being configured to send a message request to

an external server and to receive a user message from the external server, the user message being

sent from another interactive disc player via the external server, wherein said interactive disk

player is configured to compare a playback time included in the user message with a time that

has elapsed since a start of playback of an interactive disk, and to determine whether or not to

display the user message based on said comparison.

26. (New) The player set forth in claim 25, wherein the user message and the message

request each include

interactive disk identification information or program title information, and

user grouping information.

27. (New) The player set forth in claim 25, wherein said interactive disk player is

configured to output the user message to a display if a time that has elapsed since a start of a

playback by the interactive disk player approaches the playback time included in the user

message within a predetermined window.

28. (New) The player set forth in claim 25, wherein said interactive disk player is

configured to compare the playback time and the elapsed time if the user message is intended for

requesting a response from another interactive disk player.

29. (New) The player set forth in claim 25, wherein said interactive disk player is

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configured to display the user message immediately without comparing the playback time and the elapsed time if the user message is not intended for requesting a response from another interactive disk players.

30. (New) The player set forth in claim 25, wherein said interactive disk player is configured, after displaying the user message, to send a message inputted by a user along with the displayed user message to the external server.

31. (New) The player set forth in claim 30, wherein the inputted and sent message is of a type that does not request a response from another interactive disk player.

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